

COASTAL PELAGIC SPECIES ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON THE  
NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARIES COORDINATION REPORT

The Coastal Pelagic Species Advisory Subpanel (CPSAS) reviewed the National Marine Sanctuaries Coordination Report (ONMS) (Agenda Item D.1.a, NMS Report 1) and offers the following recommendations:

When sanctuary management plans come forward for review, the CPSAS recommends the Council and its advisory bodies be given an opportunity to provide comment. To this end, plan review timelines could be coordinated with Council meetings so the Council can provide feedback and input. For example, the comment period for the forthcoming draft management plan for the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary, expected this summer, should overlap with the Council's September meeting.

We also recommend identifying control areas (reference sites) outside sanctuary boundaries if assessing the effects/benefits of sanctuary management actions; it would be helpful to compare ecosystems both inside and outside sanctuary boundaries.

Finally, we support ONMS taking into account available reports and studies, as well as monitoring and scientific information from other entities (e.g., California's network of marine protected areas) in sanctuary planning and decision-making. For example, the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary condition report update noted that the use of Council supported documents such as the Integrated Ecosystem Assessment (IEA) has improved sanctuary ability to assess status and trends. The coordination of scientific products such as the IEA is a positive step forward to collaborate and coordinate resources for the better good of ecosystems and fisheries.

We thank the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries for participating in the Council process, we appreciate these detailed annual updates, and we look forward to reviewing future reports.

PFMC  
04/11/2019